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Soviet Foreign Minister Visits Korea; Joint Communique Issued

Soviet foreign minister E.A. Shevarnadze visited the DPRK from January 19 to 23 at the invitation of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

A treaty on the boundaries of the economic waters and the continental shelf and an agreeement on mutual travel of citizens were signed between the two countries and a joint communique was published on January 23.

Mr. Shevardnadze met both President Kim Il Sung and Secretary Kim Jong Il and held a series of talks with his Korean counterpart Kim Yong Nam.

The joint communique said that discussed there were a widerange of problems concerning the Korean-Soviet relations and pressing international issues.

"The meetings and talks were held in an atmosphere of fraternal friendship and comradely mutual understanding and the two sides reached a complete consensus of views on the problems discussed," said the communique. **(Text of Korean-Soviet joint communique will be carried in next issue)**

It said that the Soviet side considers a decision of the United States to hold the Team Spirit 86 joint military exercises together with south Korea to be "an open challenge to the Korean people and a grave act complicating the general situation in the Korean Peninsula and the rest of Asia."

The Soviet side supported the initiative of the DPRK on cohosting the 24th Summer Olympic Games by the north and the south in 1988.

Both sides pointed to the importance of the continuation of the process of the normalization of the Soviet-Chinese relations on an equal and mutually acceptable basis for the strengthening of socialist forces in the world.

At a banquet held at the People's Palace of Culture on the evening of January 20 in honour of Mr. Shevardnadze, Korean foreign minister Kim Yong Nam urged the United States to withdraw all its illegally introduced nuclear weapons and troops from south Korea and accept our call for turning the Korean Peninsula into a nuclear-free, peace zone.

The Soviet foreign minister said, "The principled agreement reached during the Soviet visit of Comrade Kim Il Sung in 1984 has proved to be a new and powerful impetus to the relations between our two countries."

He supported a series of tension-reducing measures proposed by the DPRK and stressed Asia should be a continent of peace, a continent without tensions and disputes.

On Afghanistan, he called for a political settlement of the question.

"But we make it clear that, for this, the interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan from outside must be removed and there must be a firm guarantee that there will be no more of such interference," said Mr. Shevardnadze.

He also stated that both the Soviet Union and China, neighbours and allies of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, are interested in removing the tensions from the Korean Peninsula.

"The Soviet Union has always stood and will stand on the side of the fraternal Korean people struggling for the reunification of the nation," stressed the Soviet foreign minister.

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President Kim Il Sung on January 21 received Mr. E.A. Shevardnadze and his party in Pyongyang. (KCNA Radiophoto)

Team Spirit 86 Mars N-S Dialogues

The Washington-Seoul war game "Team Spirit 86", announced to be conducted despite Pyongyang's mutual suspension proposal of military drills has forced the DPRK to adjourn scheduled three north-south contacts on economic cooperation, humanitarian issue and parliamentary talks' agenda.

But Pyongyang expressed its intention to resume them "at a time when a favourable atmosphere is created for the talks after the 'Team Spirit 86' joint military exercises are over."

Pyongyang's postponement of the talks was learned on January 20 when the northern delegation to N-S dialogues published a joint statement in connection with the planned exercises. **(See text of the joint statement on page 4)**

Washington and Seoul were harshly blamed in the statement for spoiling hard-won N-S talks which are now counted on to help dispel deep-seated mistrust and misunderstanding between the two sides.

According to a Xinhua report, a spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry on January 18, denouncing the U.S. and south Korea, said a war game can only ruin the atmosphere and aggravate the tension.

He also said, "... the decision to conduct such large-scale joint military exercises cannot but be deplorable."

Early in January, the DPRK called upon Washington and Seoul to suspend

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DPRK and Trinidad and Tobago Establish Ties

PYONGYANG January 23 (KCNA) – A joint communique announcing the agreement on establishing diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago was signed in Kingston on January 22.

The joint communique says that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago were opening diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level between them out of the desire to develop friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries.

The communique was signed by the Korean ambassador to Jamaica and the high commissioner of Trinidad and Tobago in Jamaica.

Youths Urged to Take Lead in Preventing War

President Kim Il Sung urged students and youths of the five continents to take the lead in preventing a new world war which may exterminate the mankind and safeguarding peace by developing more powerful anti-war, anti-nuclear peace campaigns on a regional or global scale, saying that the people of the world are now at a crossroads of war and peace.

Calling youths "the builders of a new society and masters of the future world," he also urged them to highten their fighting spirit to check military buildup in terms of war arsenals and achieve a complete ban on armaments, and create nuclear-free, peace zones in many parts of the world.

The call was made when President Kim delivered a speech at a banquet in Pyongyang on January 17 to honour the delegations from over 40 states to the meeting of the executive committee of the International Union of Students (IUS). **(See speeches of President Kim on page 2 and IUS president on page 6)**

The meeting continued from January 14 through 17, with the attention focused on reviewing the successes and experiences gained in its work since the 14th congress held in Sofia in 1984.

On January 18, the day after its closure, the secretariat of the IUS adopted a decision on conferring "the 17th November Medal", the highest award of the union, on the DPRK President for his significant international activities.

On the same day, an international solidarity meeting to support the struggle of the Korean people, youth and students was convened with the attendance of IUS members and adopted an appeal supporting Pyongyang's reunification policy. **(See text of the appeal on page 6)**

The appeal reads in part: We appeal to youth, students and all progressive minded people the world over to join us in saying:

- No to U.S. military presence on the Korean Peninsula;
- Halt stockpiling nuclear weapons in south Korea;
- Stop human rights violations and all repressions against the people and students in south Korea;
- Step up solidarity actions with the struggle of the Korean people for peaceful and democratic reunification of their country.

Student Youths on 5 Continents Must Develop More Anti-War, Anti-Nuclear Peace Campaign

Speech of President Kim Il Sung

President Kim Il Sung arranged a grand banquet at the Kumsusan Assembly Hall on January 17 in honour of the delegates who had attended the meeting of the Executive Committee of the International Union of Students and made a speech.

Noting that the meeting of the Executive Committee of the International Union of Students held in Pyongyang at the beginning of the New Year 1986, with the participation of delegates from a large number of students' organizations and international organizations around the world has done its work successfully thanks to joint efforts of the delegates, President Kim Il Sung said:

This meeting of the Executive Committee of the International Union of Students which has done its work splendidly in keeping with the present situation and the aspirations of the progressive student youths and other peace-loving people of the world will give a powerful inspiration to the broad sections of the student youths and other people of the world in their struggle to defend peace, independence and justice, exercise their right to education and implement democracy. It will also contribute greatly to strengthening friendship and solidarity among the student youths of many countries and to developing their movement throughout the world.

The international solidarity meeting held by the International Union of Students on this occasion in support of the struggle of the Korean people including youth students has condemned the U.S. imperialists who are occupying south Korea, given positive support to the peaceful initiatives taken by our Republic and to its reasonable proposal for reunification, and expressed firm solidarity with them in their struggle for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country. Allow me to express hearty thanks to you, the delegates from the students' organizations of many countries and from the international organizations, for your positive support and encouragement and inspiration to the just struggle of our people including youth students.

Student youths are the builders of a new society and masters of the future world. It is precisely you, the student youths, who are entrusted with the honourable task of building a free and peaceful new world, a blissful and prosperous new society.

It is only when student youths are well prepared that human resourcefulness and talents can flourish and that mankind's historic cause of creating a new world can advance steadfastly on the great road of victory. Bearing in mind their important mission, the student youths must prepare themselves well to be masters of a new world and display all their youthful energy and talents in building a new society.

Imperialism as Root Cause of War

This meeting of the Executive Committee of the International Union of Students has been held at a time when the people's aspirations to peace are higher than ever.

This is a year of international peace. All the peace-loving people of the world unanimously hope that this year will find a new advance in easing tensions and removing the sources of aggression and war in all parts of the world.

Only when peace is guaranteed as wished and desired by the people, can the peoples of all countries build a blissful new society by their creative labour, and the student youths see their beautiful dreams come true.

Peace does not come of its own accord. It can be won and defended only through a fight against imperialism. Imperialism is the wrecker of peace and the root cause of war. The imperialists' moves for aggression and war are disturbing peace and increasing the danger of a new war in many parts of the world.

The U.S. imperialists with an invariable ambition for world domination are increasing armaments on a large scale, hastening the production of nuclear weapons and their development and trying to extend the arms race even to outer space by planning adventurous "star wars".

Because of the U.S.-led imperialists' evil acts the people of the world today are at crossroads where to choose between war and peace, between dependence and independence. It is the most pressing and solemn task at this moment to oppose aggression and war and defend peace.

The student youths who fight for justice and truth through thick and thin, with a vivacious fighting spirit and revolutionary stamina, constitute a great anti-imperialist, peace force of our time. All the student youths around the world must take the lead in the anti-imperialist struggle and courageously fight to prevent a new world war, a thermonuclear war, and safeguard world peace and security.

The student youths on the five continents must turn out as one to form an extensive united front and develop a more powerful anti-war, anti-nuclear peace campaign on a regional or global basis. They must fight to check and frustrate the imperialists' military build-up in terms of arms and strength, achieve a universal and complete abolition of armaments and create and expand nuclear-free, peace zones in many parts of the world.

Today the greatest danger of nuclear war hovers over the Korean Peninsula. The U.S. imperialists are shipping large numbers of different kinds of nuclear weapons into south Korea, holding noisy nuclear war exercises frequently there. As a result, south Korea has become the most dangerous hotbed of nuclear war, and our country is in a critical situation where war may break out any minute.

Preventing the danger of nuclear war on the Korean Peninsula is vital not only to the destiny of the Korean nation, but also to the defence of world peace. Unless peace is guaranteed on the Korean Peninsula, there can be no peace in Asia and the rest of the world. If a nuclear war breaks out in our country, it may become a global thermonuclear war. Whoever values peace ought to pay attention to the grave situation on the Korean Peninsula and take an active part in the struggle to remove the danger of war in our country.

The Korean student youths, with the positive support and encouragement of the progressive student youths throughout the world, will fight staunchly to get the U.S. troops and their nuclear weapons out of south Korea and ensure a durable peace on the Korean Peninsula.

Need to Strengthen Int'l Solidarity & Cooperation

If they are to fulfil the noble mission which has been entrusted to them by the times and mankind, the student youths must strengthen international solidarity and cooperation.

Student youths in many countries, irrespective of their thoughts, ideas, religious beliefs and social systems, must unite firmly under the banner of peace against imperialism, and closely cooperate in their fight for national independence and for the building of a new society.

Student organizations in many countries need to activate mutual visits and exchanges, share valuable experiences in the student-youth movement with each other and continue to strengthen their friendly ties.

The Korean student youths will make every effort to strengthen friendship, solidarity and cooperation with their fellow students in many countries, and will work hard to ensure that the resolutions adopted at this meeting of the Executive Committee of the International Union of Students are implemented satisfactorily.

I firmly believe that the International Union of Students and the world student-youth movement will strengthen and develop steadily to meet the expectations of the people.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the IUS opened on Jan. 4 at the People's Palace of Culture in Pyongyang. The meeting was attended by delegates from more than 60 national organizations and over 10 international bodies.

World Peace Cannot Be Maintained Without Peace in Korea

Speech of DPRK Foreign Minister

We actively support and highly estimate the consistent peaceful steps and initiatives of the Soviet Union for peace in Europe and the world, declared vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong Nam.

He was addressing a banquet arranged by the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for F.A. Shevardnadze, Foreign Minister of the USSR, at the People's Palace of Culture on the evening of January 20.

Warmly welcoming Shevardnadze, the First Soviet Foreign Minister to pay an official visit to Korea, Kim Yong Nam expressed the belief that his current Korean visit would greatly help toward further consolidating the Korean-Soviet friendly relations, the unbreakable relations of alliance between class brothers, and expanding and developing the relations of mutual cooperation.

Noting that a new revolutionary upsurge is notice in the struggle for completing socialism and building communism in the Soviet Union today under the tested leadership of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union headed by General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev, an outstanding figure of the party and the state, he continued:

The Soviet Union, out of practical demand for communist construction, treasures peace and energetically struggles to curb the arms race on the ground and in the outer space and remove the danger of a nuclear war.

The Soviet-U.S. summit meeting in Geneva furnished a clearer proof of the consistent peaceful policy and stand of the Soviet Union and this laid the beginning of a sound turn in the international relations.

After the Geneva summit, the Soviet Union has continued its sincere efforts for the maintenance of peace by practical actions such as the step for the reduction of nuclear missiles and freeze of nuclear explosions.

Through his statement January 15, Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev made public a program for a three-month extension of the period of the unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions and for a complete abolition of the nuclear weapons all over the world.

We actively support and highly estimate the consistent peaceful steps and initiatives of the Soviet Union for peace in Europe and the world.

The Soviet Union is bending efforts to establish good neighbourly relations among nations and guarantee peace and security not only in Europe but also in Asia.

We fervently support the recent initiative of the Soviet Union for joint efforts of the Asian and Pacific nations for a detente in this region.

Openly advertising a policy of "emphasis on Asia" in the execution of its aggressive global strategy, the United States is massing huge aggression forces in this area, and has turned south Korea into the central nuclear forward base directed against our Republic and socialist countries and is working persistently to speed up the rearmament and remilitarisation of Japan and complete a three-way military alliance of the United States, Japan and south Korea.

Our party and the government of our Republic, proceeding from their consistent peaceful policy and their sense of obligation for the times, are making every possible effort to rid the Korean Peninsula of the danger of war and solve the Korean reunification question in a peaceful way under all circumstances through dialogue and negotiation.

It is entirely thanks to the patient peaceful efforts of our party that peace is preserved in Korea today, though unstable.

Realities show that peace cannot be maintained in Asia and the world, unless the Korean question is settled in a peaceful way.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung, in his New Year address this year, declared that tripartite talks must be held, involving our Republic, the United States and south Korea, and north-south summit talks be realised for the solution of the fundamental question arising in the peaceful attainment of Korean reunification.

If the dialogue is to make a successful progress, either side must, first of all, refrain from getting on the nerve of the dialogue partner and spoiling the climate of the dialogue.

The DPRK government decided to stop large-scale military exercises all over the northern half of the Republic as from February 1, 1986, and suspend all military exercises while north-south dialogue is on, as an important step for easing tensions on the Korean Peninsula and creating an atmosphere decisively favorable for the dialogue, and urged the United States and the south Korean authorities to follow suit.

But the United States and the south Korean authorities decided to stage large-scale joint military exercises "Team Spirit 86" from February, far from accepting our sincere proposal.

Such act on their party proves more clearly that they are the very ones who harass peace and wreck the atmosphere of dialogue, not showing any interest in a peaceful settlement of the Korean question, but running wild in aggression and war preparations.

If it wants to carry into practice the positive results of the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting in Geneva, the United States should accede to dialogue with us, instead of staging military exercises, and should withdraw all its illegally introduced nuclear weapons and troops from south Korea and accept our call for turning the Korean Peninsula into a nuclear-free, peace zone.

The south Korean authorities should also have a correct stance towards dialogue and make efforts to narrow the differences with us and find a point of agreement from a sincere stand for the acceleration of the reunification of the country.

We will in the future, too, staunchly fight to smash all the moves of the splittists at home and abroad to perpetuate the division of our country through the creation of "two Koreas" and invade our Republic and realise the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

Availing ourselves of this opportunity, we express deep thanks to the Soviet party, government and people for the active support and encouragement constantly extended by them to the Korean people in the just struggle for the building of socialism, for the preservation of peace in Korea and for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

It is an invariable policy of our party and unanimous will of our people to constantly consolidate and develop the great Korean-Soviet friendship which was established in the common struggle against imperialism and for the victory of the cause of peace, socialism and communism and cemented by the treaty of friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance.

We hope that during the stay of Foreign Minister Comrade Shevardnadze in Korea, a comprehensive exchange of views will take place on the question of further strengthening the excellent relations of cooperation between our two parties, two countries related to war and peace and a satisfactory unanimity of views will undoubtedly be reached there.

US Troop Withdrawal Promotes Korea's Reunification

Speech of Soviet Foreign Minister

Soviet Foreign Minister E.A. Shevardnadze arrived in Pyongyang on Jan. 19 for an official goodwill visit to Korea.

The constructive proposal for the founding of a Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo put forward by President Kim Il Sung and peaceful initiatives of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for accelerating the peaceful and democratic reunification of Korea, easing the state of military confrontation on the Korean Peninsula, promoting comprehensive dialogue between the two parts of Korea and stepping up the transfer from the unstable armistice to a durable peace, can make a good foundation for the solution of the Korean question, declared Soviet Foreign Minister E.A. Shevardnadze.

He was speaking at the banquet arranged in his honor by the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on January 20.

Branding the interference of outside forces in Korea as illegal and immoral, he stressed that the withdrawal of the U.S. forces from the southern part of the Korean Peninsula would promote the reunification of the country.

Noting that enormous achievements have been made in all fields under the tested leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea headed by President Kim Il Sung, he went on:

Our two countries are advancing shoulder to shoulder against the moves of the imperialists to increase tensions in the world, hasten the arms race and destroy the peaceful outer space.

The principled agreement reached during the Soviet visit of Comrade Kim Il Sung in 1984 has proved to be a new and powerful impetus to the relations between our two countries.

As you know, the Soviet leadership attached preferential importance to the development of relations with the socialist countries including people's Korea. I conversed with Comrade Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev before leaving Moscow. He asked me to convey his best wishes to the leading cadres of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and all the working people of your country. I am now gladly flufilling this honorable task.

Stressing that a plan of peaceful socialist construction could be carried out only on condition of durable peace, the Soviet Foreign Minister further said:

Such peace can be a peace for all peoples only when military confrontation is sharply scaled down, the arms race brought to a halt on the globe and we do not allow this arms race to expanded to outer space.

Comrade Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, out of concern for peace and the destiny of mankind, put forward a consummate program specifying orderly and consistent comprehensive steps for completely freeing the globe from all nuclear and chemical weapons by the year 2000.

This initiative also accords with the desire of the Asian peoples to whom the question of peace and security is no less acute than to the European peoples. Because great quantities of nuclear weapons are stockpiled in the Asian region, which poses threat not only to each country of this region but also to each country in other regions.

We propose that Asia be made a continent of peace, a continent without tensions and disputes.

The Soviet Union has consistently insisted on the peace and stability of the Asian Continent and on peaceful cooperation among all the countries in this region. But it will have to take appropriate steps to guard its security and the security of its allies and friends from the threat created in the Far East.

It is important for the Asian countries themselves to start taking steps for the guarantee of stability and peace in this region, as pointed out in the Soviet proposal on the comprehensive attitude toward the Asian security problem.

Though this plan is a long-range one, we proceed from the view that it must be carried into practice by joint efforts of all states. This, we think, can be started from multilateral and bilateral negotiations.

The importance of the realization of this initiative, along with the step for trust in the Far East, finds clearer recognition in the Asian countries.

We are glad at the support of the Korean friends to our stand.

In this connection, I consider it necessary to recall that the Soviet Union is ready to support other socialist countries which have advanced no small number of constructive plans conducive to the improvement of the political situation in this continent and the rest of the world and cooperate with

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Pyongyang's Delegations to N-S Talks Accuse "Team Spirit 86" War Game

The delegation of the north side to the north-south economic talks, the delegation of the Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the delegation of the north side to the preliminary contact for the north-south parliamentary talks issued a joint statement on January 20 in connection with the announcement of the plan by the United States and south Korean authorities on January 18 to hold the large-scale "Team Spirit 86" joint military exercises from February 10 in south Korea.

The statement denounces the scheduled military exercises of the United States and south Korean authorities and expresses the stand to resume the north-south talks when a favourable atmosphere is created for the talks after the military exercises are over.

The statement says:

The United States and south Korean authorities finally announced their plan to hold the provocative war exercises for forestalling attack on our Republic with the forthcoming sixth round of the north-south economic talks, the third round of the preliminary contact for the north-south Red Cross talks a few days off. This has now evoked indignation among the entire Korean people and the world's peaceloving people.

As is widely known, we, out of a sincere desire to successfully advance the north-south dialogues and relax the tense situation of the country this year, have long repeatedly advised the United States and the south Korean side to refrain from laying difficulty in the way of the dialogues and have made all efforts possible for this.

In particular, President Kim Il Sung in his new year address for 1986 clarified the stand to hold well the talks now under way and make efforts for the realization of the north-south summit talks and said that as an important way to successfully advance the north-south dialogues both sides should not hold military exercises against the other party to the dialogue.

The delegations of our side issued press statements in support of the new year address of the President and appealed to the south side not to hold such military exercises as the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises spoiling the atmosphere of the dialogues this year in response to our just and sincere stand.

At the year's first meeting of the Military Armistice Commission convened at its beginning, our side repeatedly urged the United States and the south Korean side to suspend large-scale military exercises which would obstruct the north-south dialogues and provoke the other party to them.

Further, the DPRK Government, with view to creating a favourable atmosphere for the north-south dialogues and easing the tension in the country, decided not to hold large-scale military exercises throughout the northern half of Korea from February 1 and to stop all military exercises during the period of the north-south dialogues and announced this at home and abroad through a statement of the Foreign Ministry, proposing to the United States and south Korean authorities to positively respond to this new peaceful initiative of ours.

The delegations of our side to the north-south talks sternly denounce on behalf of the whole nation desirous of the dialogues and reunification the United States and south Korean authorities for scheming to stage the "Team Spirit 86" joint military exercises in disregard of our sincerity and magnanimity.

Announcing the plan to hold the "Team Spirit 86" joint military rehearsal, the United States and south Korean authorities piffled that it is a "usual and defensive rehearsal" and "has nothing to do with the north-south dialogues".

This is only a poor excuse of criminals with a conscience of guilty.

Their talk about "usual" means permanent danger of war and "defensive" a reversed attack.

The sophism of the United States and south Korean authorities that the military exercises "have nothing to do with the north-south dialogues" is a brigandish logic that can convince nobody.

Dialogues are for peace and military exercises for war.

If any of the two sides sit for dialogues, saying in word that they should refrain from fighting and realize detente, while threatening the other party to the dialogues by firing guns and rifles in actuality, one cannot expect any good words or good results from there.

They dared "invite" us to see the exercises.

The invitation should be made in a reasonable way.

Their inviting us as guests, while levelling guns at us, cannot but be a senseless act devoid of courtesy and morality.

All facts prove that the United States and south Korean authorities scheming to hold the "Team Spirit 86" joint military exercises do not want dialogue in Korea nor are interested in peace and peaceful reunification.

It is incomprehensible that the south Korean side which had announced to the world some time ago its hope to see a sincere attitude of the north to the dialogues has published a plan to hold the military exercises negative to the dialogues following the United States in disregard of the dialogues which it had been holding with the fellow countrymen even before a few days after their announcement.

Last year the United States raised its hand at the United Nations in support of a decision to make the year 1986 an International Year of Peace. But as soon as it greeted the new year, it schemes to bring about war clouds wrecking peace itself turning its face away from the north-south dialogues for peace in Korea. This only shows that its words about hope for the direct dialogues between the north and the south of Korea are a lie and its words for peace on the Korean Peninsula sham.

The dialogues are of course valuable for us who should realize peace in the country and its peaceful reunification at an early date.

But, we have no intention to hold dialogue which will not produce success but only aggravate confrontation due to the military exercises.

Considering that the United States and the south Korean authorities are wholly to blame for the sudden suspension of the multi-channelled north-south dialogues which started well and whose future was not gloomy, we hold that they should apologize for this grave consequence to the entire Korean people and the world's peaceloving people.

There is no change even now in our stand to improve the north-south relations through dialogues and negotiations.

As the United States and south Korean authorities plan to stage the large-scale military exercises in defiance of our repeated demands and warnings, our delegations express the stand to resume the north-south dialogues now under way at a time when a favourable atmosphere is created for the talks after the "Team Spirit 86" joint military exercises are over.

We are convinced that our just stand to have dialogues for peace, dialogues for the reunification with honesty will be unanimously supported and welcomed by the whole nation and the world people desirous of peace in our country and its peaceful reunification.

"Grave Challenge to Peace and Dialogues": Rodong Sinmun

Dailies in Pyongyang on January 21 print commentaries branding the "Team Spirit 86" joint military exercises the U.S. and south Korean authorities plan to hold from February 10 in south Korea as an unpardonable crime aimed to endanger peace and increase tension in Korea and bring the north-south dialogues to a rupture.

In a signed commentary titled "Grave Challenge to Peace and Dialogues" Rodong Sinmun says that the scheduled joint military rehearsal is a large-scale offensive one directed against us, and goes on:

The "Team Spirit 86" joint military rehearsal is a grave harassment of peace.

Now multi-channelled dialogues are under way between the north and the south to improve their relations.

If the dialogues are to be promoted, the tension between the north and the south must be eased and, first of all, large-scale military exercises against the other party to the dialogues be discontinued.

We have already advanced through the Military Armistice Commission a proposal on discontinuing large-scale military exercises in Korea and suspending all military exercises during the period of the dialogues. And on January 11 we decided as an important measure to create decisively favourable environments for the dialogues not to hold large-scale military exercises in the whole area of the northern half of Korea from February 1 and to discontinue all military exercises during the period of the dialogues between the north and the south and solemnly declared this internally and externally.

At the same time, we proposed to the U.S. government and south Korean authorities not to hold military exercises in the whole area of south Korea from February 1 in response to our initiative.

But the United States and south Korean authorities, disregarding the unanimous desires of our people and the world's peaceloving people, announced that they would hold the "Team Spirit 86" joint military exercises and are already moving armed forces to south Korea and its surrounding waters.

Describing the military exercises as "defensive exercises" and "exercises for preserving peace" according to "usage", they claim that the rehearsal would not affect the north-south dialogues.

Their talk about "defence" and "peace" is a habitual sophism they resort to each time they hold joint military exercises.

Advertising that they "invited" us to watch the military exercises, the U.S. and south Korea pretend to have some good intentions.

It is an insult to and mockery of us to invite us, who are exposed to the threat of aggression due to the large-scale military exercises, to watch such exercises.

The "Team Spirit" joint military rehearsal is a direct product of the U.S.'s policy of aggression towards Asia and Korea.

The "Team Spirit" joint military rehearsal is an offspring of the U.S.'s policy of aggression aimed to obstruct our people's cause of peaceful reunification, perfect the U.S.-Japan-south Korea joint operation system, invade our Republic and, further, prevail over the other countries in Asia and a graphic expression of the U.S. "policy of strength".

The plan of the United States and south Korean authorities to hold the joint military exercises, going against the trend of the situation, fully showed the world people the true colour of the disturbers of peace, bellicose elements who do not desire the dialogues and the relaxation of tension.

The delegations of our side to the north-south dialogues issued a joint statement on January 20, denouncing the plan of the United States and south Korean authorities to stage the "Team

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U.S. and south Korean Marine amphibious forces storm out of an amphibious landing assault ship during the simulated landing operation, the highlight of "Team Spirit 85", staged on March 20 last year in the earstern coastal region under the support of helicopters, other aircraft and ships of the U.S. Seventh Fleet.

"Pledges Never Give Up Struggle for Democratization": NKDP Leader

Li Min U, president of the main opposition NKDP on Jan. 18 urged the Chon junta to make public a "schedule for democratization" as early as possible, saying "otherwise, the people's wrath will be increased to cause uncontrollable political unrest," the Hankuk Ilbo reported on January 19.

"Should the 'government' fail to disclose a requested timetable for reforms, the people would regard it as a frontal challenge to a national consensus manifested in the Feb. 12 1985 general elections," one of the leading south Korean dailies quoted Li as saying.

His remarks came at a ceremony marking the first anniversary of the NKDP's founding at the party headquarters in Seoul where some 300 party members including 72 lawmakers attended, according to the paper.

He warned the Chon junta and the ruling DJP to deeply think of how the people will act when it deprives them of the hope for democratization by turning down their call for presentation of a timetable, saying, "political unrest caused by the failure of the regime to give the people hopes for democratization, will necessarily generate social and economic confusion."

The leader of the main opposition party earlier insisted that Chon Du Hwan should present a blueprint for democratization, including an amendment to the present fascist constitution to introduce a direct presidential election system, not later than August 15 this year, and step down before his tenure expires in early 1988, the Korea Times said on Jan. 19.

He also contended that a transitional cabinet has to be formed to administer a presidential election in early 1987 under a revised presidential election law.

Li Min U in his congratulatory speech called upon all the party members to continue fighting for democracy, keeping an unswevering will to sacrifice themselves to attain the ultimate goal.

Looking back on the past, he said that enthusiastic encouragement by the popular masses has immensely convinced them when they devoted themselves to the struggle for democratization in the face of the almost hopeless situation.

"At this moment, in order to overcome various adversities to come, it is the most important thing to keep the same unswerving will to democracy that we had a year ago when we founded the NKDP", he said.

Reviewing past year, the main opposition leader accused the ruling DJP of "committing acts of violence, breaking political promises and using even deceptive methods" in politics.

The NKDP president pledged never to give up the struggle for democracy "to save the nation, staggering under the unmerciful pressure for market opening from industrialized nations."

"We have to listen to the sufferings of farmers and fishermen burdened with heavy debts, save workers from low wages and realize a truly lawful society which will guarantee a decent life so as to alleviate their pains at the earliest date," he further said.

NKDP president Li Min U makes an address on January 18 at a ceremony to celebrate the first anniversary of the party's founding, saying they can "never give up the struggle for democratization," (Photo from the Korea Times)

NKDP Resolves to Intensify Pol. Struggles

The Jan. 15 indictment of seven New Korea Democratic Party lawmakers is expected to cut off the relationship between the ruling "DJP" and the main opposition party to create "political vacuum."

The latest prosecution's action compelled the No. 1 opposition party to initially engage in a war of statements to denounce its counterpart for breaking the political compromise agreement and for abusing the rules of democracy, according to reports of south Korean papers.

The two parties held meetings of their offices on January 15, respectively, to discuss how they cope with the ever-worsening political situation.

Observers say that the both parties are expected to clash outside the national assembly as the NKDP declared its firm resolution to intensify political struggles, including the "pan-national campaign for constitutional revision even outside the parliament."

This decision was adopted at a meeting of key NKDP officials to discuss countermeasures against the indictment of seven parliamentarians.

The NKDP declared that it will gear up its struggle for "constitutional amendment" in retaliation of the current "blatant betrayal and political violence" by the ruling camp.

The party attributed the decision to its judgement that "there is no value is continuing dialogue any more," according to the south Korean daily Hankuk Ilbo dated Jan. 16.

Hong Sa Duk, a spokesman of the NKDP in his statement issued after the meeting, said, "The betrayal and political violence by the ruling party and the government are tantamount to strangling parliamentary democracy."

"Without an effort to solve the floor violence case through dialogue, as rival party whips had agreed earlier, they made a blitz indictment of our lawmakers," he said, according to the Korea Times on Jan. 16.

Meanwhile, 13 NKDP assemblymen who were allegedly involved in the "acts of violence" on the assembly floor last month met at a hotel in Seoul, pledging to fight back against the unjust indictment in the court.

Kim Dae Jung Sends Letter of Encouragement to Corazon

Kim Dae Jung, former presidential candidate in south Korea and co-chairman of the Council for Promotion of Democracy on January 15 sent a letter of encouragement to Mrs. Corazon Aquino, opposition presidential candidate in the Philippines against dictator Marcos, saying that he expected her victory in the election, according to a Kyodo report from Seoul.

In his letter, he said, "If Mrs. Corazon wins, the February 7 (election day) will be a day of victory not only for the people of the country but also for the peoples over the world, including south Korea who want democracy."

Filipino Students Hit Chon Du Hwan

Filipino students held a demonstration in front of the south Korean embassy in Manila, opposing fascist suppression by the Chon Du Hwan military junta and expressing solidarity with the south Korean students in their struggle, according to a report.

The students thronged to the south Korean embassy on December 16, shouting slogans and carrying placards reading "Oppose Chon Du Hwan military fascist dictatorship," "Repeal fascist 'national security law' in south Korea," "Release detained south Korean students" and "Withdraw U.S. military bases from south Korea."

They published a statement which exposed and condemned the massacre of thousands of citizens in the Kwangju Incident by the Chon Du Hwan military fascist clique.

The statement criticized the U.S.'s support to the south Korean "regime" and demanded that the "regime" be overthrown for the democratization of the south Korean society.

Filipino students on July 8, 1981, staged a demonstration against the state visit of south Korean dictator Chon Du Hwan to the Philippines in front of the south Korean embassy in Manila. (AP Radiophoto)

50 Univ. Students Stage Street Demonstration

Some 50 college students staged a surprise demonstration on a street near the Namdaemun Market in Seoul on January 17, according to reports of south Korean dailies.

The demonstrations took place on the street around 4 p.m. with the demonstrators putting up a placard to demand the abolition of the current "constitution", labelling the Chon junta as a dictatorial "regime," the Korea Times reported on Jan. 19.

They distributed anti-"government" leaflets called a "message to patriotic citizens," according to the paper.

They clashed with riot police, hurling stones and Molotov Cocktails as the latter fired tear gas bombs.

Police Search Office of Dissident Organization

Police also seize 200 copies of the office of the Youth Alliance for the Democratization Movement on January 17 and seized 6 copies of its journal titled Minjung Shinmun on charges of "subversive" contents, according to the Hankuk Ilbo dated Jan. 18.

Police also seize 200 copies of the publication, called "Mal (speech)" of the Council for Democratic Press, a dissident organization co-sponsored by Song Kon Ho and Choe Chang Hak in a search on Jan. 17 for the same reason.

150 Collegians Stage Protest Rally

Some 150 students of Yonsei University held a protest meeting on Jan. 20 against the school authorities' decision not to allow a student meeting called "Paekyang Camp" during the vacation.

The students gathered at the library also pledged that they would fight for the abolition of the current "constitution," in a meeting to hold an "inaugural ceremony for democratic struggles" this year.

Speech of IUS President At Jan. 17 Banquet

A speech was made by Miroslav Stepan, President of the International Union of Students, at a banquet arranged by President Kim Il Sung on January 17 in honour of delegates who had participated in the executive committee meeting of the IUS.

Noting that the results of the deliberations constituted an exceptionally binding contribution to, as well as a new impulse for, the further strengthening of the overall influence of youth and students upon world public opinion and its place in important political decisions concerning the resolving of urgent problems in the world of today, he said:

Participants warmly welcome the January 15 initiatives introduced by the USSR on prolongation of moratorium on nuclear test for 3 months and full programme of liquidation of nuclear weapons within 15 years.

Together with the world public, we are concerned over the dangerous situation prevailing in the Korean Peninsula and the weakening of confidence in the Far East, due to the irresponsible peace-endangering Washington-Tokyo-Seoul alliance.

We welcome and fully support, as was unambiguously confirmed at the international solidarity meeting with the struggle of the people, youth and students of Korea, the peace-loving proposals and initiatives of socialist Korea leading towards the reunification of Korea and the improvement of the situation in the Asian and Pacific region, and express full support and solidarity to the south Korean students in their unbreakable struggle against fascist rule and the interference of the U.S. imperialists and for the social democratization.

We express our full support to the proposals of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for the withdrawal of the U.S. troops from south Korea, the changing of the Korean Peninsula into a nuclear-free zone, and other proposals oriented towards the normalizing of the situation in this region.

Int'l Solidarity Meeting Held in Pyongyang

An international solidarity meeting supporting the struggle of the Korean people, youth and students was held in Pyongyang on January 17.

The meeting was attended by Miroslav Stepan, President, and Giorgos Michaelides, General Secretary, of the International Union of Students, delegations and delegates of student organizations from Uruguay, Chile, Hungary, the German Democratic Republic, France, Romania, Nicaragua, Cuba, the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Angola, Cape Verde, Mozambique, the Congo, Madagascar, Senegal, Egypt, Lebanon, the African National Congress of South Africa, Poland, Czechoslovakia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Grenada, Palestine, Viet Nam, Laos, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, India, the Philippines, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Mongolia, Syria, Jordan, the South West Africa People's Organization, Ethiopia, the Sudan, Ghana, Zambia, Burundi, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Tanzania, Finland, Cyprus and other countries and international organizations.

Present there were vice-premier of the Administration Council Chong Jun Gi, Director of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland Ryo Yon Gu, Chairman of the central Committee of the League of Socialist Working youth of Korea Li Yong Su, Chairman of the Korean Students Committee Kim Chang Ryong, the members of the delegation of the League of Korean Youth in Japan headed by chairman of its central standing committee Kim Hak Su and youth and students in the city.

The General Secretary of the IUS made a keynote report. He said:

The world's peaceloving forces estimate the efforts made by the DPRK to hold tripartite talks with the United States and south Korea to replace the Korean armistice agreement with a peace agreement, adopt a non-aggression declaration between the north and the south and thus create favourable conditions for the peaceful reunification of Korea.

Expressing our condemnation of the United States and the south Korean "regime" for having ignored occasions for peace in Korea and her peaceful reunification, I followed with indignation the moves of the United States which answered them with "Team Spirit" nuclear war exercises in disregard of them.

At the same time, we resolutely demand that the United States respond to the constructive proposals put forward by the DPRK such as the withdrawal of the U.S. forces from south Korea, conversion of the Korean Peninsula into a nuclear-free zone and replacement of the armistice agreement signed in 1953 with a peace agreement.

An international solidarity meeting supporting the struggle of the Korean people, youth and students was held in Pyongyang on January 17. (Photo from Rodong Sinmun)

EDITORIAL

To Halt "Team Spirit 86" War Games

A joint statement was issued on Jan. 20 by the DPRK delegations to the economic and Red Cross talks and preliminary talks for the interparliamentary contacts concerning the joint military drills codenamed "Team Spirit 86" scheduled to be held from coming Feb. 10 to mid-April.

The delagations blamed the U.S. and south Korea for their planned war exercises as undermining the aspirations of the Korean people for the reunification of the country and world peace.

They declared in the statement that the north-south contacts would be deferred until a situation favourable for the dialogues was created after the military exercises were over.

We 700,000 resident Koreans here condemn the U.S. and the south Korean authorities for ignoring the repeated requests and warnings made by the DPRK and formally announcing a plan for the "Team Spirit 86" war games.

We endorse the DPRK's positive initiative and patient efforts for territorial reintegration and its sincere attitude toward the dialogues.

Nevertheless, the U.S. and south Korean authorities argue that the planned war games are annual events which have been conducted in the past and are a "defensive rehearsal." They further say that the military drills have nothing to do with the "north-south contacts". They go so far as to say that they want to "invite the parties concerned of the north to observe the military drills." These are their arguments for justification of the military excercises.

Their claims are nothing less than an attempt to cover up their aggressive intention and mislead the world public.

The war games dubbed "Team Spirit 86" are a military threat to the DPRK, the party to the north-south talks and negotiations. The military war exercises "Team Spirit 86" are reported to involve deployment some 200,000 troops, the nuclear-capable 7th Fleet, advanced fighters, warships and tanks, which indicate the scale of the military drills.

The north-south talks have been continued thanks to the sincere and patient efforts of the DPRK.

It is to be regretted that the continued north-south contacts can't but be suspended temporarily.

The U.S. and south Korean side should respond to the DPRK's new proposal tack and stop their planned war games.

They should bend their efforts toward continuation of the north-south dialogues and negotiations for the purpose of bringing reunification and peace to Korea.

We hope that the peace-loving governments and peoples throughout the world will oppose the "Team Spirit 86" military exercises, which may lead to nuclear war catastrophe in Korea.

The world community is urged to support the Korean people in their efforts to resume dialogues and to safeguard the peace of Korea and its national reintegration.

Appeal Adopted at Int'l Solidarity Meeting

An appeal was adopted at the International Solidarity Meeting with the Struggle of the People, Youth and Students of Korea held in Pyongyang on January 17.

Expressing deep concern over the situation in the Korean Peninsula which remains one of the primary targets in the imperialist schemes of the U.S. aimed at perpetuating military and political confrontation with forces of peace and socialism in Asia and the Pacific region. The appeal says:

The participants in the meeting strongly support the numerous proposals by the DPRK to withdraw all U.S. military troops from south Korea and to set up a nuclear-weapons-free zone on the Korean Peninsula .

We highly appreciate the initiatives and practical steps undertaken by the government of the DPRK with the aim to create conditions for peaceful and democratic reunification of the country and for establishing a Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo.

We reiterate our support of the proposals to replace the armistice agreement by a peace treaty, to adopt a non-aggression declaration between the north and the south, to hold interparliamentary negotiations and to carry out other measures that could eventually lead to the normalization of the situation and to relaxation of tensions on the Korean Penisula.

The participants in the solidarity meeting are convinced that the growing U.S. military presence in south Korea, in particular the continued stockpiling and modernisation of nuclear weapons there : the enlarged scale and the evident aggressive nature of the joint U.S.-south Korean military manoeuvres such as "Team Spirit" and the promotion of the tripartite military alliance among Japan, the U.S. and its south Korean puppets, pose a direct threat to security and independence of all countries in the region and endanger peace and stability in other parts of the world.

In the spirit of militant student solidarity, we express our grave condemnation of the increased persecutions and repressions by the Seoul authorities of the many patriots, especially students, in south Korea who strive for democracy and human rights, for ousting of the military dictatorial "regime" of Chon Du Hwan, and for peaceful reunification of their divided homeland under the banner of independence from the U.S.

We appeal to youth, students and all progressive-minded people the world over to join us in saying:

- No to U.S. military presence on the Korean Peninsula
- Halt stockpiling nuclear weapons in south Korea
- Stop human rights violations and all repressions against the people and students in south Korea.
- Step up solidarity actions with the struggle of the Korean people for peaceful and democratic reunification of their country.

40th Birthday of LSWYK

A grand meeting was held at the February 8 House of Culture on January 16 to mark the 40th anniversary of the Founding of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea (January 17, 1946).

Present at the meeting were Kang Song San, member of the political bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and Premier of the Administration Council, Li Jong Ok, Kim Hwan and So Yun Sok, members of the political bureau of the WPK Central Committee, Chong Jun Gi, alternate member of the political bureau of the WPK Central Committee, personages concerned, functionaries of the LSWYK, model members of the LSWYK and young labour innovators.

The message highly estimates the precious exploits and proud feats performed by the League of Socialist Working Youth in the endeavours to unite our young people and children closely around the party and the leader and energetically mobilize them in implementing the party's policy so as to build a new country, a new society, and carry forward the revolutionary cause of Juche to completion.

Li Yong Su, Chairman of the Central Committee of the LSWYK, delivered a report at the meeting.

The Korean youth movement has reached a new stage in its development under the energetic guidance of dear Comrade Kim Jung Il, the reporter said, and continued:

Comrade Kim Jong Il said the youth movement is, in essence, one for carrying forward the revolutionary cause pioneered by the leader to completion generation after generation and set it as the general task of the LSWYK to rear the young men and women to be reliable heirs to the revolutionary cause of Juche. Under his wise guidance and solicitude the Korean youth movement has greeted a great heyday in its development.

Recalling that the south Korean youth movement and the movement of Korean youth in Japan have constantly developed in the past, Li Yong Su stressed that the LSWYK organizations and their members have waged a powerful struggle to hasten the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

The LSWYK organizations and their members, he pointed out, have strengthened international solidarity with our revolution and positively contributed to the development of the international youth movement by making every effort to foil the imperialists' policy of aggression and war and to defend world peace, in firm unity with the world's

(Continued from page 4)

Spirit 86" joint military exercises and expressing the stand to resume the north-south dialogues when a favourable atmosphere is created for the dialogues after the end of the military exercises.

The United States and the south Korean authorities are wholly to blame for the suspension of the dialogues.

If the U.S. government and south Korean authorities are truly interested in the dialogues and peace, they must cancel the plan to stage the "Team Spirit 86" joint military exercises, stop seeking a nuclear war in the spirit of agreement at the USSR-USA Summit and accede to the peaceloving proposal of the DPRK Government on discontinuing the military exercises.

If the U.S. and south Korean authorities do not comply with our just demand but aggravate the situation by staging the "Team Spirit 86" joint military exercises, they will have to bear full responsibility for all the consequences arising therefrom.

progressive youth under the banner of independence, friendship and peace.

Congratulatory speeches were made by Kim Hak Su, Chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the League of Korean Youth in Japan, and Miroslav Stepan, President of the International Union of Students.

Speech of Soviet Foreign Minister

(Continued from page 3)

them very closely.

I have in mind the proposal of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for making the situation of the Korean Peninsula sound and turning it into a nuclear-free zone.

We also recognize the great urgency of the proposal of the Mongolian People's Republic for signing a treaty of nonaggression and non-use of strength among the Asian and Pacific countries and for holding a meeting of parliamentarians of the Asian socialist countries on the agenda "peace and security in this region".

The single concept of peace in the Asian Continent involves the step taken by the Afghan government and people for a political settlement of the situation surrounding their country.

We call for a political settlement of the question concerning Afghanistan. But we make it clear that, for this, the interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan from outside must be removed and there must be a firm guarantee that there will be no more of such interference.

And we are ready to cooperate most actively with the countries of Indochina in their initiative to establish a zone of peace, stability and cooperation in the area.

We appreciate the scrupulous peaceful steps of nonaligned India which has legitimately won the authority of a most respected champion of peace.

The five principles of peaceful coexistence worked out by Asian states and the ten principles of Bandung still preserve their significance.

As you see, there is a realistic prerequisite to the conversion of Asia into a continent of durable peace, friendship and genuine good neighbourly relations.

The Soviet Union will contribute to this in the future, too.

We view in this context our talks with state figures of Japan a few days ago.

We resumed political dialogue with the government of that country and agreed upon continuing it and succeeded in finding a point of contact.

The agreements signed in Tokyo and an accord on cooperation in the scientific and technological domain will also be useful to the cause of peace.

We became firmly convinced that a common language must and can be found despite a series of serious differences with that country over separate problems.

The normalization and improvement of the Soviet-Chinese relations will, no doubt, play a positive role in strengthening Asian security.

Both the Soviet Union and China, neighbours and allies of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, are interested in removing the tensions from the Korean Peninsula.

The fact itself that these three socialist countries are calling for peace in this area which is facing a touch-and-go situation on the eve of explosion, carries a sprout of hope.

We will raise this sprout with good care.

We regard the Korean question as a complicated and acute international issue demanding an early solution.

We think the reunification of Korea is, first of all, a question of the Korean people themselves. The interference of outside forces in Korea is illegal and immoral.

The withdrawal of the U.S. forces from the southern part of the Korean Peninsula will promote the reunification of the country.

The constructive proposal for the founding of the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo put forward by Comrade Kim Il Sung and peaceful initiatives of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for accelerating the peaceful and democratic reunification of Korea, easing the state of military confrontation on the Korean Peninsula, promoting comprehensive dialogue between the two parts of Korea and stepping up the transfer from the unstable armistice to a durable peace, can make a good foundation for the solution of the Korean question.

The Soviet Union has always stood and will stand on the side of the fraternal Korean people struggling for the reunification of the nation.

(Continued from page 1)

their military rehearsals through the Military Armistice Commission (MAC) and later decided not to hold large-scale military drills as from February 1 and stop all exercises during the period of N-S dialogues, urging Washington and Seoul to follow suit.

Yet, they rebuffed the peace-oriented step, only deciding to shorten the exercise term of the "Team Spirit 86" by two weeks.

"It is incomprehensible that the south Korean side which had announced to the world some time ago its hope to see a sincere attitude of the north to the dialogues has published a plan to hold the military exercises negative to the dialogues...", said the joint statement.

The heads of the DPRK delegations to the inter-Korean economic, Red Cross and preliminary contacts for full-dress interparliamentary negotiations respectively sent telephone messages to their counterparts in Seoul on January 21 and 22, notifying them that the talks would be held depending on the situation after the end of the "Team Spirit 86" war game.

The expressed deep concern and regrets over the announcement of the plan for the military drills which made it impossible to arrange the N-S dialogues as scheduled, referring to Seoul's "wrong stand (of). . . attaching greater importance to the interests of foreign forces of aggression than those of the nation."

Washington and Seoul say that the "Team Spirit" exercise is "a usual and defensive rehearsal" and "has nothing to do with the north-south dialogues."

As for their claim, Pyongyang rebuttled in the statement, "Dialogues are for peace and military exercises for war," adding that the word "usual" in their talks means "permanent" danger and war and "defensive" a reversed attack.

The "Team Spirit", the largest war game on the globe, have been annually conducted since 1976 and this year's is said to involve over 200,000 armed soldiers and last for about two months. (Its plan was disclosed on January 18.)

A January 21 article of Rodong Sinmun, organ of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, clearly reflects the north's attitude to the "Team Spirit".

"The 'Team Spirit' joint military rehearsal is the offspring of the U.S. imperialists' policy of aggression aimed to obstruct our people's cause of peaceful reunification, perfect the U.S.-Japan-south Korea joint operation system, invade our Republic and, further, prevail over the other countries in Asia and a graphic expression of the U.S. 'policy of strength'."

On Washington and Seoul's invitation of Pyongyang to see the scheduled military exercises, which was made along with the announcement of the drill's plan, the statement said, "Their inviting us as guests, while levelling guns at us, cannot but be a senseless act devoid of courtesy and morality."

No sooner had the U.S.-south Korea Combined Forces Command made public the plan, the DPRK side demanded on January 18 the 433rd MAC meeting on January 21.

After the latter side made a "counter-proposal" to hold it on January 29, the former presented a "counter-counter-proposal" to sit at a conference table on January 23 to discuss the matter.

These remarks and moves on the part of Pyongyang apparently stem from its afore-said firm policy on the "provocative" annual exercises.

Convinced that the N-S dialogues are valuable for the peace and reintegration of the four-decade-long severed land, the joint statement noted, ". . . we have no intension to hold dialogue which will not produce success but only aggravate confrontation due to the military exercises."

Pyongyang, however, maintained its steadfast posture of not impairing the forum to exchange ideas and opinions for national reconciliation, pointing out in the statement, "There is no change even now in our stand to improve the north-south relations through dialogues and negotiations."

Rodong Sinmun in its Janurary 21 issue said that if Washington and Seoul are truly interested in the dialogues and peace, they must cancel the plan to conduct the "Team Spirit 86" in the spirit of agreement at the USSR-U.S. summit in Geneva last year.

It also cautioned them about not complying with Pyongyang's initiative to refrain from military exercises, saying, ". . .they will have to bear full responsibility for all the consequences arising therefrom."

U.S. Maintains "Green Berets" in S. Korea: Magazine

The Reagan administration is building up the Special Operations Forces (SOF) and has contingents of green berets stationed in Korea and Berlin as well, the Asian Defense Journal said in a recent issue.

But, the disclosure is not new as the Defense Monitor published by the Washington-based Center for Defense Information said last year that "there are Special Forces detachments in south Korea and Berlin whose composition is secret." (The Defense Monitor, Vo. XIV, Number 2, 1985)

Here are excerpts from the Defense Monitor on "America's secret soldiers":

U.S. Special Operations Forces are military commando units trained for guerrilla warfare, covert action, and counter-terrorism. They are America's "secret soldiers." As far as the military is concerned, the less said about Special Operations Forces (SOF) in public, the better. They are best known for their attempted rescue of the hostages in Iran in 1980 and for leading the way in the U.S. invasion of Grenada in 1983.

The original, and still essential, purpose of Special Operations Forces is to create confusion and disruption behind enemy lines in wartime. But SOF are also the U.S. military forces which carry out clandestine operations in foreign countries in peace-time. They would be the cutting edge of any American intervention force anywhere in the world in the future.

Special Operations Forces are undergoing an unprecedented peace-time expansion after a marked post-Vietnam decline. Troop levels, spending, weapons inventories and actual use of Special Operations Forces have all increased dramatically under the Reagan Administration. They will continue to grow under a "revitalization" plan scheduled for completion in 1990. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger has told Congress that SOF are "one of this Administration's highest priorities."

Since 1981, the Reagan Administration has increased active duty Special Operations Forces manpower almost 30%, to its current level of 14,900. With reserves added in, total SOF now number 32,000. By 1990, active duty manpower will be up to 20,900, an 80% increase over 1981, and total SOF will number 38,400.

Spending for Special Operations Forces has been rising rapidly, roughly tripling in the past three years. The SOF budget peaked at over $1 Billion in the late 1960s (largely for operations in Vietnam), then declined precipitously to a low of under $100 million in FY 1975. It increased slowly through FY 1982, before starting on a rapid escalation to well over $200 million in FY 1983, about $350 million in FY 1984 and $500 million in FY 1985. The Reagan Administration has asked for over $600 million in FY 1986, with major increases anticipated for the future.

Much of the money will be spent on new weapons designed expressly for Special Operations Forces. By 1990, the Navy will have 54 hight and medium Special Warfare Craft, up from 8 in 1981; two ex-Polaris nuclear ballistic missile submarines are being converted to carry commandos; the Air Force's special aircraft inventory will expand from 86 in 1981 to 150 in 1990; the Army will greatly increase its supply of Special Operations helicopters and may also field devices like laser-guided weapons for hostage rescue missions.

A new bureaucracy has sprung up around Special Operations Forces, reflecting the high priority accorded them. It includes the creation of: the multi-service Joint Special Operations Agency, reporting directly to the Joint Chiefs of Staff; the Army's First Special Operations Command at Ft. Bragg, uniting all Army SOF; the Army General Officer Steering Committee for Special Operations Forces; the Air Force's First Special Operations Wing of the 23rd Air Force; and a Special Operations Policy Advisory Group, made up of retired officers, within the Department of Defense.

The expansion goes beyond increases in numbers of troops, equipment and dollars spent. Use of Special Operations Forces has also increased greatly since 1980. Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Noel Koch, who bears primary responsibility for overseeing the SOF buildup, has said they are the "most heavily used of our military forces today."

Special Operations Forces have been at the ready in several hostage situations around the world since the failed Iranian mission in 1980. The invasion of Grenada was spearheaded by SOF units from each of the services. Special Operations Forces are now participating in most joint military exercises, and in 1984 there were 13 joint exercises specifically oriented toward SOF. In Central America, Special Operations Forces have been deeply involved in military exercises, training activities, and according to some sources, covert operations.

The most extensive use of Special Operations Forces is in Military Training Teams (MTTs). These teams of U.S. troops sent abroad to train foreign armies operate in dozens of countries. Under the Reagan Administration, the number of MTT manweeks abroad has increased more than five-fold, from 1,161 in 1980 to an estimated 5,787 in 1984. Special Operations Forces make up 25-35% of all MTTs, including virtually all of those employed in counter-insurgency and guerrilla training.

Although MTTs are ostensibly limited to training, the line between training and participating can be a fine one. Special Operations Forces training activities in Central America and elsewhere, like the Green Berets' training of South Vietnamese troops in 1959, could be the crucial first step on the path leading to direct U.S. combat involvement.

WHAT ARE SOF?

Each branch of the Armed Services trains, equips and maintains its own Special Operations Forces units. SOF are competitively selected, highly trained troops with capabilities and missions unlike those of conventional troops. They are, in a sense, America's "guerrilla fighters," trained to operate as guerrillas and to engage in clandestine activity. Special Operations Forces are usually called on to do the "dirty" jobs. They learn to fight in any climate or terrain – jungle, mountain, desert, arctic–and to conduct airborne and underwater operations.

Their specialized skills include underwater demolition, sabotage, foreign weapons expertise, wilderness survival, parachuting, scuba, hand-to-hand combat, sniper, pathfinder, camouflage, escape and evasion, aerial resupply and extraction, intelligence gathering, interrogation, and psychological operations. SOF are expected to be experts in foreign languages and customs and include engineering, communications and medical specialists.

Special Operations Forces can be traced back to World War I and II and the commando activities of the Devil's Brigade, the OSS, Merrill's Marauders, and Rangers. Special Operations –Rangers in particular–gained permanent status during the Korean War.

The original purpose, and still most important function, of SOF remains support for conventional forces in large-scale war. The support would primarily take the form of behind-the-lines activities: deep infiltration, and attacks on enemy lines of communication, logistic centers, command and control facilities, petroleum and weapons supply depots, even nuclear weapons delivery platforms and storage areas.

In the late 1950s and 1960s, the Special Operations Forces mission expanded as the U.S. looked for ways to deal with Third World conflicts. SOF began training foreign armed forces–especially in Asia–in counter-insurgency warfae, and during the Vietnam War emerged as the principal anti-guerrilla fighting units.

In the 1970s, and more so during the Reagan Administration, a new use for SOF has emerged: counter terrorism. In general, this is a response to the increase in international terrorism, mainly in the form of hijackings and hostage-takings. More specifically it is a response to the failed attempt to rescue the American hostages in Iran in 1980.

SOF TODAY

The Army has by far the largest number of Special Operations Forces troops with almost 9,100 on active duty and another 13,300 in the Reserves. The Air Force has 4,100 active and 2,500 reserves, while the Navy has 1,700 active and 1,300 in the reserves. By 1990, Army active SOF strength will climb to 12,400, Air Force to 5,800 and Navy to 2,700; there will also be small increases in reserve forces.

The Air Force, however, is getting the biggest slice of the SOF budget mainly to purchase new aircraft. In FY 1985, the Air Force got 47%($231 million) of the SOF budget, the Army 29%($144 million), and the Navy 24% ($119 million).

Army

Army Special Operations Forces are divided into six groups: Green Berets, Rangers, Civil Affairs, Psychological Operations, Delta Force, and the 160th Task Force of the 101st Army Air Assault Division. The latter two are top secret units.

Most Army SOF are trained and based at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, home of the First Special Operations Command and the JFK Special Warfare School, although some units are stationed elsewhere in the U.S. and in foreign countries.

● *Green Berets* Their distinctive headgear authorized in 1961 by early SOF enthusiast President John Kennedy, Green Berets are perhaps the best known of all U.S. Special Operations Forces. They undergo six months of training at Ft. Bragg, at a cost to the Army of about $40,000 per soldier. Green Berets are organized into four 776-man "Special Forces Groups" (SFGs), each with three battalions. The 5th and 7th SFGs are based at Ft. Bragg, the 10th SFG at Ft. Devens Massachusetts, and the 1st SFG at Ft. Lewis, Washington. The 1st SFG was just reactivated in September 1984 and another SFG will be added by 1990 There are also four Special Forces Groups in the Army Reserves.

One battalion (the 3rd) from the 7th SFG at Ft. Bragg is permanently stationed in Panama; the 1st battalion of the 10th SFG at Ft. Devens is stationed in Bad Tolz, West Germany; the 1st battalion of the 1st SFG at Ft. Lewis is stationed on Okinawa, Japan. In addition, there are Special Forces detachments in South Korea and Berlin whose composition is secret. The Berlin detachment is a "stay behind" force, trained to go underground and disrupt Soviet operations if they overrun Berlin.

Most U.S. Military Training Teams (MTTs) sent abroad to train foreign armies are composed of Green Berets. According to the Army their peacetime role is limited to teaching, but Green Berets also possess formidable combat skills, as their experience in Vietnam demonstrated. In Vietnam, the Army's Special Operations Forces, principally Green Berets, became the most highly decorated unit of its size in U.S. Army history.

● *Rangers* In contrast to Green Berets, Rangers are trained primarily for combat in enemy territory. As Lt. Colonel W.B. Taylor, commander of the 1st Ranger Battalion told the *Washington Post*, "Our job is to kill people and destroy things. . . We're killers, not trainers."

Rangers, who wear black berets, undergo a rigorous, demanding 58-day training period involving desert training in New Mexico and Texas, swamp maneuvers in Florida, mountain fighting in Georgia, and general combat techniques at Fort Benning, Georgia. Most, though not all, Rangers are airborne qualified; Ranger paratroopers made up the bulk of the initial assault force on Grenada.

Rangers are organized into the 75th Infantry Regiment (Rangers), which consists of three 660-man battalions at Hunter Army Airfield, Georgia (the 1st), Fort Lewis, Washington (the 2nd), and Fort Benning, Georgia (the 3rd), plus a Regimental Headquarters and Headquarters Company. The Fort Benning battalion and the HQ units were added in 1984. The three battalions alternate periods of responsibility for the Ranger Ready Force–a quick reaction force capable of leaving, fully prepared for combat, within 18 hours.

● *Civil Affairs* Civil Affairs (CA) specialists are organized into the 96th CA battalion, based at Fort Bragg. In addition to that one active duty battalion, there are three General Officer Commands, four Groups five brigades, and 24 companies in the U.S. Army Reserve.

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